

# Police Department

## Police Department

### ► Agency Mission

To protect persons and property by providing public safety services, and the fair and impartial enforcement of the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia in the County of Fairfax; while promoting community involvement, as well as stability and order through service, assistance, and visibility.

### ► Trends/Issues

The Police Department continues to deliver superior police services to the citizens of the County of Fairfax in the face of rapidly increasing urbanization of formerly suburban areas and significant diversification in the ethnic compositions of communities. The Department will focus attention on maintaining the excellent level of citizen participation developed over the year; while maintaining one of the area's lowest per capita spending levels.

#### *Per Capita Spending*

Jurisdiction	FY 1996	FY 1997	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000
Fairfax County	\$119.29	\$116.84	\$128.75	\$133.66	\$143.58
Montgomery County	\$127.73	\$124.91	\$131.59	\$135.24	\$137.94
Prince Georges Co.	\$151.04	\$146.54	\$156.14	\$155.58	\$164.71
Arlington County	\$162.24	\$166.39	\$171.88	\$179.00	\$176.39
Alexandria City	\$228.75	\$235.46	\$259.06	\$258.12	\$252.10

### Key Accomplishments

During the period from July 1999 to June 2000, the Police Department continued to experience dramatic success as a result of its extensive involvement with the community through such programs as the Citizen Advisory Committees, Neighborhood Watch Program, Block Parents Program, Crime Solvers, Auxiliary Police Program, and Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS). This commitment resulted in significant reductions in reported incidents of criminal activity during the year and an increase in the number of serious crimes solved. The overall number of Part One Index crimes decreased 8.38 percent from CY 1998 to CY 1999. This was the second year in a row in which crime levels were down, and it was the lowest reported number since 1984 within the Department and among other metropolitan jurisdictions.

#### *Rate of index Crime per 100,000 Population*

	Fairfax	Arlington	Alexandria	Montgomery	Prince George's
Police Service Population	904,439	189,010	121,700	846,000	776,424
Murder	1.62	2.12	10.64	1.54	11.21
Rape	10.60	13.76	18.08	14.42	30.27
Robbery	43.59	96.82	129.83	77.30	275.24
Aggravated Assault	38.08	98.94	169.27	91.02	446.15
Burglary	170.16	249.72	456.86	437.83	876.58
Larceny	1,886.12	2,447.49	3,316.35	2,171.75	2,712.31
Motor Vehicle Theft	173.40	351.30	576.83	297.40	968.03
Total	2,323.58	3,260.14	4,668.86	3,091.25	5,319.77

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In FY 2000, Fairfax County celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Neighborhood Watch program. There are now over 700 Neighborhood Watch programs located throughout the County, staffed by County residents who have committed themselves to assisting the Police Department in crime reduction and towards a better quality of life.

During FY 2000, a number of new programs for enhancing departmental operations came to fruition, including assigning additional officers to the School Resource Officer Program (SRO). The goal of the program is to place an SRO in all of the Fairfax County high schools, as well as all middle schools, to improve police service to the community and to promote a safe learning environment for our youth. Other new community-based programs include:

- The Day Laborer Initiative, in which the Department partnered with the Hispanic Committee of Northern Virginia, Fairfax County Human Services, St. Anthony's Church and other community organizations to improve employment conditions for many day labor workers.
- Graffiti Abatement Program in which the Department, paint industry, local paint distributors, property owners, and citizen volunteers have combined their resources to prevent, report and remove graffiti in the community.
- Establishment of "core areas" or "police service areas," where specific patrol officers and supervisors are permanently assigned to specific communities. This program increases accountability and promotes more efficient policing at the community level. It also encourages greater citizen participation in neighborhood problem solving and crime prevention efforts. Through community education and media outlets, citizens not only know the names of the officers and supervisors who patrol their neighborhoods, but also know their direct phone voice mail numbers and e-mail addresses in many cases.

### **FY 2002 Initiatives**

Being safe in our homes, neighborhoods and communities is an issue of vital importance to all citizens in Fairfax County. In order to more effectively prevent and reduce crime, the Department has adopted a Department-wide philosophy of community policing. At the heart of this philosophy is the premise that successful crime prevention only occurs when the police and community members work closely together toward common goals. The Department developed a partnership with The National Center for Community Policing at Michigan State University, to ensure a smooth transition to community policing and to track our performance. As a result of this partnership, each member of the Department completed a survey for the purposes of tracking our progress and establishing a benchmark for future analysis. Initial results of this survey are promising and another evaluation is forthcoming. In order to allow officers time to work on community policing and problem solving efforts, the Department must have the staffing and other resources in place to provide officers the time required to interact with the public. The manner in which the Department manages the response to low priority calls-for-service is paramount to the success of community policing. For example, the Department must allow dispatchers in the Public Safety Communication Center and officers the flexibility to delay responding to lower priority calls-for-service so that officers will have more time to focus on community policing and problem solving responsibilities in the field. This can, however, increase response times for some lower priority calls. The agency will strive to maintain a balance between its more established response protocols, while implementing its progressive new programs.

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In FY 2002, the Department will continue to actively support police-citizen involvement programs. One highly successful community policing initiative, common to many larger police agencies, is a citizen oversight board or advisory committee, consisting of interested community members. Through a cooperative partnership, the police and the Citizen Advisory Committees work together to identify issues, problems and solutions regarding crime or other issues in the community. The Citizen Advisory Committees, which meet with District Station Commanders, and the Citizen Advisory Council, which meets with the Chief of Police, will continue to play major advisory roles during the upcoming year. In addition, the agency will strive to further develop other advisory groups to review changes in the way the Department conducts business in a new era of community policing.

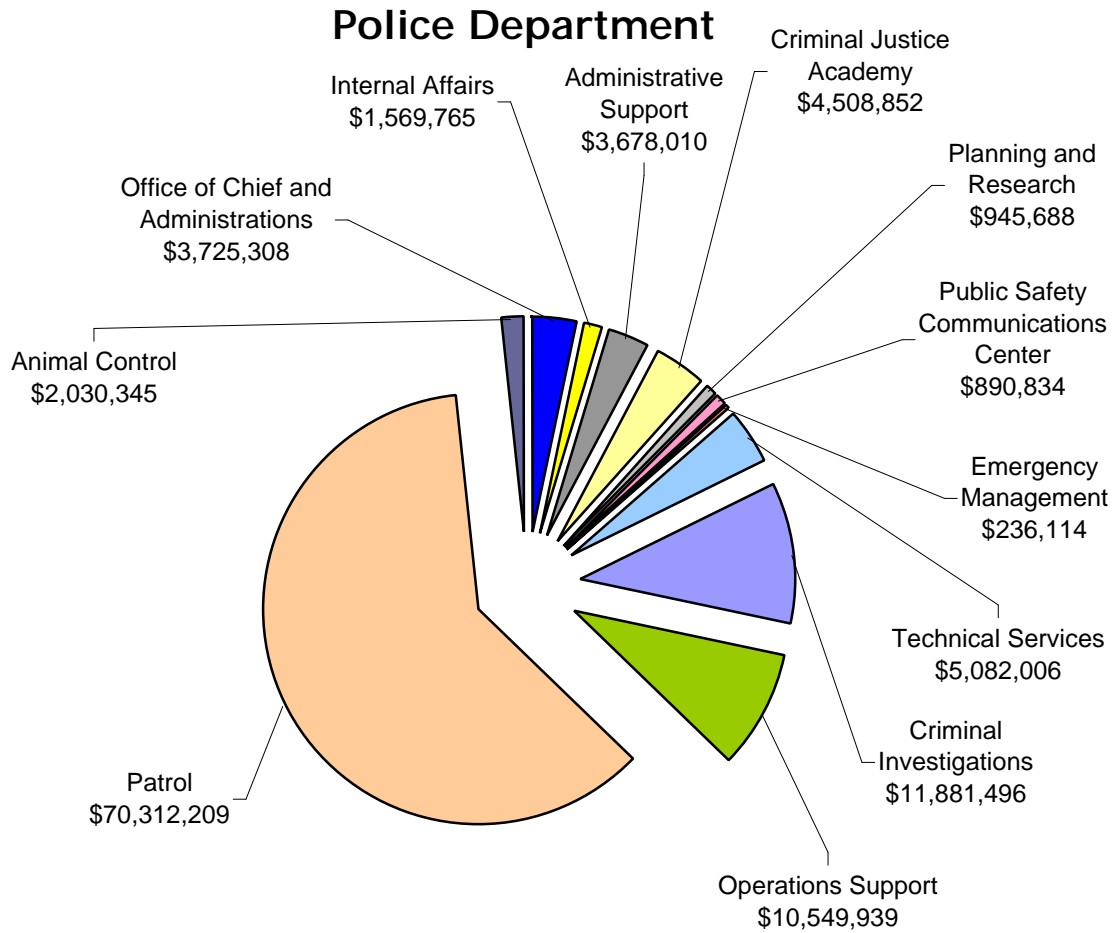
For FY 2002, the Department will continue to rigorously pursue its mission of crime prevention, the successful investigation of criminal offenses, the diligent enforcement of traffic laws, and the promotion of public safety through community police and education programs. To meet these goals, in the midst of rising workloads, will require increases in personnel resources, facility improvements and equipment. The Police Department's long established reputation for excellence in service, at low per capita cost and staffing per 1,000 residents, will continue to be provided to the citizens of Fairfax County in FY 2002 and beyond.

### ► Summary of all Agency CAPS

CAPS Number	CAPS Title	CAPS Net Cost	CAPS Number of Positions/SYE
90-01	Office of Chief and Administrations	\$1,989,472	20/20
90-02	Internal Affairs	\$1,426,810	15/15
90-03	Administrative Support	\$3,405,096	42/42
90-04	Criminal Justice Academy	\$4,092,983	45/45
90-05	Planning and Research	\$932,692	12/12
90-06	Public Safety Communications Center	\$799,863	143/143
90-07	Emergency Management	\$183,114	4/4
90-08	Technical Services	\$4,462,264	55/55
90-09	Criminal Investigations	\$10,112,466	155/155
90-10	Operations Support	\$7,493,366	129/129
90-11	Patrol	\$57,272,548	1096/1002.16
90-12	Animal Control	\$2,025,345	31/31
<b>TOTAL Agency</b>		<b>\$94,196,019</b>	<b>1747/1653.16</b>

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Total FY 2002 Adopted Budget Expenditures = \$115,410,566  
Total FY 2002 Adopted Budget Net Cost = \$94,196,019